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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/866,563	05/25/2001	Robert D. Washburn	0008761-0002	4469

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HAI L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2816

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/866,563

Applicant(s)

WASHBURN ET AL.

Examiner

Hai L. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-12, 15, 17-20, 22-56 and 58-68 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 13, 14, 16, 21 and 57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 May 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:
 - I. Claims 1 and 13, drawn to an electronic isolator having an embodiment as shown in Fig.5.
 - II. Claims 2-4, 14, 16, 21, and 57 drawn to an electronic isolator having an embodiment as shown in Fig.6.
 - III. Claims 5-12, 15, 18, 19, 22-26, and 56 drawn to an electronic isolator having an embodiment as shown in Figs.7&8.
 - IV. Claims 17, 20, 27, and 36-40 drawn to an electronic isolator having an embodiment as shown in Fig.17.
 - V. Claims 28, 29, and 41-55 drawn to an electronic isolator having an embodiment as shown in Fig.14.
 - VI. Claims 30-35 drawn to an electronic isolator having an embodiment as shown in Fig.16.
 - VII. Claims 58-68 drawn to an electronic isolator having an embodiment as shown in Fig.11.
2. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, group I is generic.
3. During a telephone conversation with Mr. J.D. Harriman on 02/14/02 a provisional

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election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of groups I and II, claims 1-4, 13, 14, 16, 21, and 57. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 5-12, 15, 17-20, 22-56 withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Drawings

5. Fig.11 is objected to because failing to label the element according to its function. For example, element 1500 in Fig.11 should be labeled as --RF Switch-- as described in the specification. Correction is required.

Claim Objections

6. Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 1, "3" should be changed to --13-- because based on the limitation "the electrical output" in the claim, which refers to "the electrical output" recited in claim 13. Since there is no "electrical output" recited in the base claim 3. Appropriate correction is required.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 3-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 recites the limitation "said isolator means" on line 1 lacks clear antecedent basis. It is unclear if this isolator means is the same as the "isolator" recited in claim 1 (or a different "isolator"). From the specification and drawings, it appears that "said isolator means" should be changed to --said isolator--.

Claims 4-12 are rendered indefinite by the deficiencies of base claim 3.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 1-4, 13, 14, 16, 21 and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Barta (US 4,975,604).

With regard to claim 1, Barta discloses in Fig.2 an electronic isolator between a source stage (22) and a load stage (24), including configuring means (12,14) for configuring the isolator

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(30,32,34,36) to appear as an infinite impedance to the source stage (when 34 is off, and 30 is on).

With regard to claims 2, the configuring means comprises a voltage source (38).

With regard to claims 3, the isolator comprises a T-configuration (30,32,34,36) coupled to the voltage source.

With regard to claims 4, the voltage source is a controllable voltage source.

With regard to claim 13, the reference discloses in Fig.2 an electronic isolator between a source stage and a load stage comprising an electrical input (22) comprising at least one source electrical connection connected to the source stage (inherent), an electrical output (24) comprising at least one load electrical connection to the load stage, at least one circuit path (30-34) into which electrical noise is directed away from the source and load electrical connections.

With regard to claim 14, since the claimed structure is met by Barta, inherently, the recited function will also be met.

With regard to claim 16, the electrical input and the electrical output inherently comprise at least one conductor using a ground signal return path.

With regard to claim 21, a controllable source (14) that is a current or voltage controlled voltage source circuit.

With regard to claim 57, the controllable source (14) is a pulsed voltage source.

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Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. For example, Pyndiah et al. (US 5,087,898) is cited as of interest because it discloses an integrated semiconductor active isolator circuit.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai L. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-306-9178. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on 703-308-4876. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

HLN 
March 4, 2002


TIMOTHY P. CALLAHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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